

REMARKS

Claims 23-44 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, continuation-in-part, or other application.

Applicant submits an Applicant Initiated Interview Request form along with this response to request a telephone interview before the next Office Action on the merit.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8-14, 16, 17, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the publication "Microsoft Office 2000" by Courter et al. ("Courter") and claims 5-7, 15, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being upatentable over Courter in view of the publication Visio 2000 Standard Edition User Guide ("User Guide"). Without commenting on or conceding the merits of the Examiner's position, applicant has cancelled these claims. As a result, the Section 103(a) rejections of claims 1-22 are now moot.

Applicant has added claims 23-44 in this response. Applicant respectfully submits that Courter and User Guide cannot form the basis of a Section 102 or 103 rejection of these claims.

Applicant's technique is generally directed toward a method for generating linear timelines to show, for example, progress information of a project. According to applicant's technique, a user selects a portion of a parent line covering a time span, for example, from March 1 to June 1, to generate a child line. The portion can include a first project event (e.g., a first milestone "shipment to customers") located at April 1. The child line generated has a time span that corresponds to the selected portion (e.g., from March 1 to June 1) and contains a second project event corresponding to the first project event (e.g., a second milestone "shipment to customers" located at April 1). The parent and the child lines are dynamically linked such that when one project event on one line is modified, the corresponding project event on the other line is automatically modified. For example, if the

first milestone "shipment to customers" on the parent line is moved from April 1 to May 1 on the parent line, the corresponding second milestone is automatically moved to May 1 on the child line. Similarly, if the second milestone on the child line is moved from April 1 to April 15, then the corresponding first milestone is automatically moved to April 15 on the parent line.

Courter and User Guide do not teach or suggest several features of the new claims. For example, Courter and User Guide do not teach or suggest a computer-implemented method in a project information management system. Instead, Courter describes the Microsoft Office Suite 2000, including Outlook, Word, and Excel, and User Guide describes the Visio drawing application. In addition, neither reference teaches or suggests "placing a first line on an electronic drawing sheet, the first line representing a first time interval and including a first set of project events," "placing a second line on the electronic drawing sheet corresponding to the second time interval, the second line representing an expanded view of the second time interval and including a second set of project events corresponding to the first set of project events," "detecting a modification of a project event of the first set that is within the second time interval," and "automatically updating the second set of project events in the second line to conform to the updated project event of the first set" of claims 23-31 and 39-43.

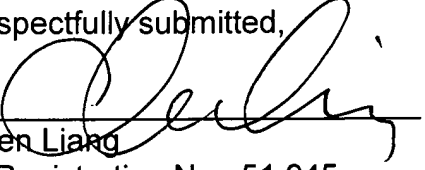
Also, neither reference teaches or suggests "displaying a first line having a first project event and a second line having a second project event," and "dynamically-linking the second line to the first line such that the second line is associated with a portion of the first line" of claims 32-38.

Further, neither reference teaches or suggests "a component for depicting a first line and a second line on an electronic drawing sheet," "a component for allowing user addition of a first project milestone to the first line," "a component for determining if the first project milestone is in the second time interval" of claim 44. If the first project milestone is in the second time interval, a second project milestone is added to the second line that

corresponds to the first project milestone. Moreover, these claims recite a novel combination of elements that is neither taught nor suggested by Courter or User Guide.

Based upon the above amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or would believe that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-6038.

Dated: 8/2/06

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